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PATENT
2342-107P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Mitsuhiro HIRANO

SERIAL NO.: 08/813,200

GROUP: unassigned

FILED: March 7, 1997

EXAMINER: unassigned

FOR: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION
BUT BEFORE FINAL REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

June 30, 1997

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE
(check at least one box)

a. Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).

b. A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

JP-A-61-203290 and JP-A-62-68294 disclose a robot, used in a clean room, wherein a driving portion which becomes a dust generating portion is covered with a cover and air within the cover is sucked to prevent dust, particles, etc. from diffusing out of the cover.

JP-A-62-98740 discloses a dust preventing system for a rotary mechanism wherein a processing chamber has an N2 introduction pipe and a driving source is disposed in the processing chamber with the driving source being covered by a housing. By making the pressure in the processing chamber higher than the outside pressure, dust is exhausted to the outside through an exhaust pipe communicating with the inside of the housing and the outside of the processing chamber. Also see the attached English Abstract.

c. The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

FEES

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b):
(check one box)

a. within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

b. within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

c. before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$230.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2)).

a. No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$230.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
or
b. See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

a. each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

b. no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

c. Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)

 A check in the amount of \$230.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

 Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of \$230.00 for the above-indicated fee. A triplicate copy of this paper is attached.

X No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

SN: 08/813,200

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment
pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No.
02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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Enclosures: PTO-1449

References

Foreign Search Report

Fee

Other:

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